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BELIZE WINS GOLD

HISTORIC MALE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Belize defeats Costa Rica to take AFECAVOL's Men's Final Four

Inside

"Gold! Belize takes gold! Congratulations to our "golden" guys for clinching the win in the AFECAVOL Men's Final Four." – Prime Minister John Briceño via X

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DURING THE TRANSFER PERIOD OF JULY 1 TO AUGUST 31

Belize Wins GOLD

Historic Male Volleyball Championship

Belize defeats Costa Rica to take AFECAVOL's Men's Final Four

July 16, 2026 - Belize volleyball fans are ecstatic, never mind the FIFA Football World Cup for men that still has Belizeans engaged to Messi and Argentina. Belize male volleyball team achieved international GOLD which is a historic first for male volleyball. Belize beat Costa Rica in four sets for the 2nd time in AFECAVOL's Male Final Four hosted in Costa Rica. Belize had also bested Nicaragua and lost a five-setter to Panama. This loss occurred when Belize had secured the Gold Medal game while Panama needed it for it's third place final standing.

Regionally, Costa Rica is a sports rival and the standard to achieve. Logic might seem to dictate that a country with a larger population should always defeat the smaller. History has been on the side of that logic but not on Wednesday night In a gym in front of Costa Rican fans. Belize defeated a team from a country of five million.

The four highest-ranked senior national teams in Central America are selected for this Final Four based on their standings from the previous year's major regional tournament.

The Belizean team was awarded the regional gold medal, the tournament trophy, and direct qualification to compete in the NORCECA Pan American Cup.

Belize's Francis Hauze Named MVP of the Third AFECAVOL Men's Final Four

Posted on July 16, 2026July 16, 2026

SAN JOSÉ, Costa Rica, July 15, 2026. – Belize's Francis Hauze was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the third edition of the AFECAVOL Men's Final Four following a historic tournament in which his team captured its first-ever senior men's championship title.

Hauze also earned the Second Best Spiker award, while his teammate Kyron Sutherland was recognized as the Best Blocker.

Host Costa Rica collected five individual awards, including three for Gilberth Solano, who was honored as Best Scorer, Best Server, and Best Opposite.

Also, for Costa Rica, Justin Varela received the Best Spiker award, while Jeremy Vanega was named Second Best Blocker.

For Nicaragua, Miguel Castillo earned both the Best Libero and Best Digger awards, while Axel Gutiérrez was recognized as the Best Receiver.

Representing Panama, Astergio Díaz received the Best Setter award. (NORCECA)

Belize Broadcasting Authority

Final round of Stakeholder Consultations

Representatives and experts from the Belize Broadcasting Authority (BBA) are meeting with independent media houses, radio and television broadcasters, and other key stakeholders regulated by the BBA. This gathering marks the final round of Stakeholder Consultations for the Modernization of Belize's Broadcasting Framework Project.

Participants are reviewing the draft Broadcasting Act of 2026 and Broadcasting Regulations, which aim to modernize Belize's framework in response to evolving technology. The proposed legislation could also give the BBA new tools to ensure content on broadcasting platforms is more suitable and age-appropriate for Belizean audiences.

Summer Smiles: Camps & Entertainment

July 16, 2026 - Summer vacation is proving to be much more than a break from the classroom as communities across Belize continue to roll out a wide variety of activities aimed at keeping children and young people engaged, learning, and active. From educational camps and sports clinics to cultural celebrations and agricultural training, area representatives, town councils, and community organizations are offering opportunities that promote personal growth while strengthening community ties.

In Stann Creek West, preparations are underway for one of the district's biggest community celebrations. The Hopkins Village Council is inviting residents and visitors to Hopkins Day 2026 under the theme "Rooted in Culture, Rising in Unity." The three-day event, scheduled for July 31 to August 2 at the Old School Grounds, will feature cultural displays, musical performances, beach activities, local tournaments, and entertainment for the entire family, celebrating the village's rich traditions and community spirit.

Sports enthusiasts in the constituency are also looking forward to the Rodwell Ferguson Cup South Zone football competition. The tournament begins on July 17 with Trio FC taking on Scorpions before Belize El Shaddai Academy faces Mango Creek United. The action continues on July 24 with B.V FC meeting Placencia, while Vikings FC battles Old Forest Blue Chips.

Young people interested in farming have been spending their week at the Youth in Agriculture Summer Camp hosted at the Agriculture and Natural Resource Institute. Throughout the camp, participants have explored horticulture, livestock production, aquaculture, beekeeping, and agro-processing while learning practical skills that can be applied through backyard gardening. Students have received hands-on experience handling livestock, identifying animal diseases, and working with beekeeping specialists. The excitement continues with preparations for the Belize Beef Fest and Rodeo on August 15, where competitors from across the country are expected to participate.

In Cayo North, Area Representative Michel Chebat expressed gratitude to the Belize Port Authority for partnering once again to host a successful summer camp. He noted that the initiative continues creating opportunities for young people to learn, socialize, and build stronger community connections while promising additional summer activities in the weeks ahead.

Belmopan is equally busy with an impressive calendar of educational and sporting events. Area Representative Oscar Mira's annual Numeracy and Literacy Program is underway at Kuxlin Ha Primary School, while girls are participating in ICT training designed to strengthen digital skills. Swimming, basketball, softball, and volleyball camps are also scheduled throughout July and August, giving children and teenagers opportunities to stay active during the holiday.

The Belmopan City Council has also organized several youth-focused initiatives. A Special Olympics All-Inclusive Sports Summer Camp is bringing participants together through inclusive recreational activities, while a Youth Camp from July 16 to 18 focuses on leadership, teamwork, volunteerism, and community service. Earlier this month, young chess enthusiasts also sharpened their strategic thinking during the Mayor's Chess Training sessions.

Along the coast in the Belize District, Caribbean Shores Area Representative Kareem Musa has introduced a unique fishing and marine conservation camp at Dolphin Park. More than thirty children are learning fishing techniques alongside lessons on protecting Belize's marine resources. Organizers hope participants leave with greater environmental awareness while enjoying an outdoor experience away from electronic devices.

In Freetown, Area Representative Francis Fonseca has developed a diverse schedule combining academics with creative and athletic activities. Students are improving their Math and English skills before moving into arts and crafts, basketball, football, and crochet classes designed for different age groups throughout July and August.

The Belize City Council has once again launched its fifth annual Peewee Basketball Summer League. The program welcomes boys and girls between seven and twelve years old, providing not only competitive games but also valuable lessons in discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

San Pedro Town Council is encouraging young athletes to participate in its three-on-three Basketball Youth Tournament on July 18. Separate Under-13 and Under-18 divisions promise a day filled with energetic competition and community participation.

Orange Walk is balancing recreation with literacy and community events. Phillip Alvarez Park will host the return of the popular Night Market on July 31, while aspiring volleyball players are sharpening their skills through a beginner's camp for girls. The Orange Walk Town Council also recently concluded its first annual reading program, celebrating two weeks of storytelling, imagination, and learning while encouraging children to discover the joy of reading.

Across Belize, these summer initiatives demonstrate a shared commitment to investing in young people by providing meaningful experiences that encourage education, healthy lifestyles, creativity, and community pride long after the school holidays come to an end.

Photos on Insert 1

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José Jiménez
LAYOUT/GRAPHIC ARTIST
Chris Williams
OFFICE ASSISTANT
Roberto Peyrefitte

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Summer Smiles

Camps and Entertainment

Youth in Summer Camp
SC West at ANRI

Day 1 of the Stann Creek West North Zone Youth in Agriculture Summer Camp being held at the Agriculture and Natural Resource Institute, ANRI. Minister Ferguson opened the summer camp with remarks, challenging the students to engage their new knowledge at home with backyard gardens.

The camp continues until Friday 17 July, with the students participating in Horticulture, Livestock, Beekeeping, Agroprocessing, and Aquaculture. A second summer camp for Stann Creek West South Zone will be held July 27 to 31.

EDITORIAL

Educational Upliftment

Humanity is one of nature's beings that has persevered over the past approximately 10,000 years due to its resilience in learning, innovating, troubleshooting, and implementing solutions. As humans developed the skills and technology to self-diagnose their origins, they took note of fossilised bones, petrified structures, and cryptic glyphs, along with existing ancient writing and structures, to offer patterns and explanations for the moulding of today's institutions. Of the long list of man-made institutions that shaped civilisation, probably at the top, in no order, are government, religion, agriculture and education. In this piece, let us bring into broad context the government's role in education and specifically the planBelize specific policies, people call free education(EUP), STEAM, competency-based learning, paying 100 per cent of all salaries and pensions, and the Ministry of Education's TEDS. Let us state the inextricably crucial role of parents in responsive parenting. The latter is limitless and invaluable for its skill-building, financial, emotional, social, and basic parental support, aimed at uplifting the lives of their children. The tandem success of the Government and Parent is of paramount importance in people's lives. The upliftment of a person from a tender baby to a productive adult is a multidimensional effort by parents, family, community, business, schools, and government. The buck often stops at the schools, and the government, with the onus felt more on the political directorate, but all stakeholders have absolute roles.

In Belize, to teach, there is a teacher's license to apply for and qualify for. Multiple documents are required to prove eligibility. These are processed for completeness by a department of the Ministry of Education, and a license is issued for five years. The Teacher Educational and Development Services (TEDS), along with a Curriculum Unit, work with schools and teachers to ensure that teaching and learning keep up with the times. To renew the teacher's license, the teacher must have shown a prescribed number of hours of formal capacity-building over the five years. In the classrooms of Primary and Secondary Schools, teachers are moving systematically to full competency-based (CB) teaching and learning. STEAM-based teaching is also gaining traction as it should in this technological age. Full buy-in by teachers is probably the biggest hurdle. A CB system and STEAM are designed to cater to the labour and employment needs of Belize. This is probably one of the fundamental goals of governmental involvement and its vision for future development.

The planBelize-led Government of Belize saw the need to pay full salaries and be responsible for full pensions for all teachers. The impact of this is felt by schools, as grant-aided schools were to reassign their efforts from raising thirty per cent of salaries. Additionally, the Government, via its Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, has instituted the Education Upliftment Programme (EUP), which is set to directly reduce the costs of sending children to school. The EUP has been labelled "free education," but its goal might not be fully explained by that label. The secondary schools under the EUP have students receiving tuition waivers, free uniforms, free transportation, electronic devices, and free meals. The level of help depends on the school and the agreement with the school. Non-EUP schools still receive salaries, pensions, and government support through the Belize Social Investment Fund, financial assistance for students, and even devices for students. The upliftment varies with many factors.

In 2026-2027, the government is allocating approximately $300 million directly to education; indirectly, it adds an incalculable amount. When hospitals, roads, energy and more are being deliberated upon, the education of our young is always at the fore. Add to all this, the amount spent by parents in education, and Belize definitely invests over a billion dollars in Education every year. We want to continue improving the quality of life via Education. Today, as we see construction booming everywhere, we know that the economy is firing on all its cylinders. The citizens of Belize, the jewel we love, expect a world-class education system that uplifts everyone. The government is working to do just that every single day.

en Español

Mejora Educacional

La humanidad es uno de los seres de la naturaleza que ha perdurado durante los últimos aproximadamente 10 000 años gracias a su capacidad de adaptación, aprendizaje, innovación, resolución de problemas y puesta en práctica de soluciones. A medida que los seres humanos desarrollaron las habilidades y la tecnología necesarias para autodiagnosticar sus orígenes, prestaron atención a los huesos fosilizados, las estructuras petrificadas y los glifos crípticos, junto con las escrituras y estructuras antiguas existentes, para ofrecer patrones y explicaciones que dieran forma a las instituciones actuales. De la larga lista de instituciones creadas por el hombre que han dado forma a la civilización, probablemente en los primeros puestos, sin ningún orden en particular, se encuentran el gobierno, la religión, la agricultura y la educación. En este artículo, situemos en un contexto más amplio el papel del gobierno en la educación y, concretamente, las políticas específicas del plan de Belice, lo que la gente denomina educación gratuita (EUP), STEAM, aprendizaje basado en competencias, el pago del 100 % de todos los salarios y pensiones, y el TEDS del Ministerio de Educación. Destacamos el papel crucial e inextricable de los padres en la crianza receptiva. Esta última es ilimitada e inestimable por el desarrollo de habilidades y el apoyo financiero, emocional, social y parental básico que proporciona, con el objetivo de mejorar la vida de sus hijos. El éxito conjunto del Gobierno y los padres es de suma importancia en la vida de las personas. La evolución de una persona, desde un bebé hasta un adulto productivo, es un esfuerzo multidimensional en el que participan los padres, la familia, la comunidad, las empresas, las escuelas y el Gobierno. La responsabilidad suele recaer en los centros educativos y en el Gobierno, y se percibe que la carga recae más sobre la dirección política, aunque todas las partes interesadas desempeñan un papel fundamental.

En Belice, para ejercer la docencia, es necesario solicitar y obtener una licencia de profesor. Se requieren múltiples documentos para acreditar el cumplimiento de los requisitos. Un departamento del Ministerio de Educación comprueba que están completos y se expide una licencia con una validez de cinco años. Los Servicios de Formación y Desarrollo Docente (TEDS), junto con la Unidad de Currículo, colaboran con los centros educativos y los docentes para garantizar que la enseñanza y el aprendizaje se adapten a los tiempos actuales. Para renovar la licencia docente, el profesor debe haber acreditado un número determinado de horas de formación reglada en un plazo de 5 años. En las aulas de las escuelas primarias y secundarias, los docentes están adoptando de forma sistemática una enseñanza y un aprendizaje plenamente basados en las competencias (CB). La enseñanza basada en STEAM también está ganando terreno, como es lógico en esta era tecnológica. La plena aceptación por parte de los docentes es probablemente el mayor obstáculo. El sistema CB y el enfoque STEAM están diseñados para satisfacer las necesidades laborales y de empleo de Belice. Este es probablemente uno de los objetivos fundamentales de la intervención gubernamental y de su visión para el desarrollo futuro.

El Gobierno de Belice, liderado por el «PlanBelice», consideró necesario pagar íntegros los salarios y hacerse cargo de las pensiones completas de todos los docentes. Las escuelas notan las consecuencias de esta medida, ya que los centros subvencionados tuvieron que reorientar sus esfuerzos para recaudar el 30 % de los salarios a otro sector. Además, el Gobierno, a través de su Ministerio de Educación, Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnología, ha puesto en marcha el Programa de Mejora Educativa (EUP), cuyo objetivo es reducir directamente los costes de enviar a los niños al colegio. El EUP se ha denominado «educación gratuita», pero es posible que esa etiqueta no explique del todo su objetivo. En los institutos que forman parte del EUP, los alumnos disfrutan de la exención de la matrícula, de uniformes y transporte gratuitos, de dispositivos electrónicos y de comidas gratuitas. El nivel de ayuda depende del centro educativo y del acuerdo establecido con él. Los centros que no forman parte del EUP siguen recibiendo salarios, pensiones y apoyo gubernamental a través del Fondo de Inversión Social de Belice, así como ayuda económica para los alumnos e incluso dispositivos para ellos. La mejora varía en función de numerosos factores.

En el periodo 2026-2027, el Gobierno destinará aproximadamente 300 millones de dólares directamente a la educación; de forma indirecta, se suma una cantidad incalculable. Cuando se debaten temas como los hospitales, las carreteras, la energía, entre otros, la educación de nuestros jóvenes siempre ocupa un lugar prioritario. Si a todo esto le sumamos el gasto de los padres en educación, Belice invierte, sin duda, más de mil millones de dólares en educación cada año. Queremos seguir mejorando la calidad de vida a través de la educación. Hoy, al ver cómo la construcción está en pleno auge por todas partes, sabemos que la economía está funcionando a pleno rendimiento. Los ciudadanos de Belice, la joya que tanto amamos, esperan un sistema educativo de primera categoría que beneficie a todos. El Gobierno trabaja cada día para conseguir precisamente eso.

Belize Youth Movement
Orange Walk Central Chapter

Belizean History via the BDF

First woman to serve as the Force Sergeant Major

Warrant Officer Class One,

Dee-Ancor Reyes

BELIZE DEFENCE FORCE
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER
HISTORIC
NEWS
FIRST FEMALE FORCE SERGEANT MAJOR FOR THE BDF
Join us on 15 July 2026 at the Sir Colville Young Parade Square, Price Barracks, Ladyville, as Warrant Officer Class One Dee-Ancor C. Grinage Reyes becomes the first female Force Sergeant Major in Belize Defence Force history, alongside the Passing Out Ceremony for Recruit Intake 69.
READ MORE

On Wednesday, 15 July 2026, at 3:00 p.m.at the Price Barracks, Ladyville for a ceremony that celebrates both the future and the history of the Belize Defence Force. The country witnessed the Passing Out Ceremony of Recruit Intake #69, where 134 recruits, including 20 women, officially received the title of Belize Defence Force soldiers. More significantly, this ceremony included a historic Change of appointment of the Force Sergeant Major (FSM)-the most senior appointment within the enlisted ranks of the Belize Defence Force. We especially extend a special invitation to former female Belize Defence Force members, to be present for this grand occasion.

After faithfully serving as the Force Sergeant Major for over 26 years, Warrant Officer Class One, Wilfredo Majano will hand over the appointment to Warrant Officer Class One Dee-Ancor Reyes, who will become the first woman in the history of the Belize Defence Force to serve as the Force Sergeant Major. Her appointment represents a landmark achievement for the Belize Defence Force and reflects the highest standards of leadership, professionalism, and dedication to service.

Warrant Officer Class One Dee-Ancor C. Grinage Reyes is preparing to assume the appointment of Force Sergeant Major of the Belize Defence Force on 15 July 2026. In doing so, she will become the first female Force Sergeant Major in the history of the Belize Defence Force. Her journey began in the St. Martin De Porres area, Belize City, where she was raised by her aunt, Muriel Dominguez. She started Calvary Temple Primary School at the age of eight and graduated as valedictorian. She later attended Canaan Seventh-day Adventist High School and again graduated as valedictorian in 1999. Although she dreamt of becoming a nurse or teacher, her family could not afford further education at the time.

With the support of her aunt, Cynthia Grinage Aranda, she enlisted in the Belize Defence Force Volunteer Element. She worked guard duties to pay her school fees at Belize Technical Night School and served four complete years as a volunteer soldier; including duties as a librarian and medic. In September 2003, she enlisted into the Regular Force as a medic. Her career was not without challenges. As a woman in a demanding military environment, she had to prove herself through discipline, competence, professionalism, and consistency. She faced expectations, pressure, long work hours, limited resources, and the challenge of balancing service, education, marriage, and motherhood. She never allowed those challenges to define her limits.

The Belize Defence Force gave her opportunity, purpose, education, and a path forward. She completed Practical Nursing in 2005, trained in Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Assistance at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, graduated from the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy in 2023 with a Bachelor's degree in Leadership and Workforce Development, and completed an Executive MBA in 2025.

Her story is a message to young women across Belize: where you start does not decide where you finish! With discipline, courage, education, and service, you can rise. WO1 Reyes' journey proves that the Belize Defence Force is a place where women can serve, lead, and build a future.

From hardship to national responsibility - her journey now opens a door for the young women who will follow! (BDF)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lodgement of an EIA Report and Public Consultation
For
Honey Hub Limited
For the construction of a New Access Road passing through the Freshwater Creek Forest Reserve (FCFR) interconnecting Honey Camp and Neuland Orange Walk, Belize

The general public is hereby informed that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report has been submitted to the Department of the Environment (DOE) for Honey Hub Limited for the construction of a New Access Road passing through the Freshwater Creek Forest Reserve (FCFR) interconnecting Honey Camp and Neuland Community, Orange Walk, Belize. While the EIA report is a technical document, it contains an executive summary which provides an overview of the project and its potential environmental impacts. The EIA report will be reviewed by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) before the DOE takes a final decision.

The general public is therefore advised that the EIA report will be available for public review, free of charge, from July 3rd, 2026, to July 27th, 2026, (Monday to Friday) during normal working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) at the following locations:

1. Sandy Hunter Public Library- Orange Walk Town
2. Santa Martha Village Community Center- Orange Walk District
3. Carmelita Village Community Centre-Orange Walk District
4. Neuland Community- Corozal District
5. San Estevan Village Community Center- Orange Walk District.

The EIA report is also available on the DOE's website at the link: https://doe.gov.bz/download/honey-hub-limited/. The public is invited to submit their comments in writing on or before July 27, 2026, to the DOE Office in Belmopan or email: envirodept@environment.gov.bz; eiaunit@environment.gov.bz and link: publiccommentsformhoneyhublimited

Kindly be informed that a hybrid (in-person and virtual) public consultation for the EIA report will be held on July 23, 2026, commencing at 6:00 pm. The in-person consultation will be held at San Estevan Lions Club, San Estevan Village, Orange Walk District, and an online link will be provided near the date for those participating virtually. The consultation will also be streamed live via the Government of Belize Press Office Facebook Page.

The General Public is invited to attend in person or participate online, to make comments, ask questions, seek clarification, and/or provide input with regard to this proposed project.

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Request for Bids (RFB)

Wastewater Line Relocation, Belcan Bridge

1. This RFB follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project publicized as of *30 June 2026.*
2. The *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supply, installation and commissioning of a wastewater line for *Relocation of Sewer Force main, Belcan Bridge Works* . The delivery/construction period is *90 days from Start Date as specified in Section 4.19 of Bidding Document.*
3. The RFB will be conducted through the Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Belize Water Services' Bidding Document section Eligibility and Qualification Requirements *Section 2.6 and 4.21.*
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Water Services Limited, Lawrence Young, Sr. Project Manager, Technical Services Department* lawrence.young@bwsl.com.bz
5. Qualification requirements include: *copies of original documents defining the constitution, Power of Attorney, experience in works similar nature and size for the past 5 years and other information as requested in the Bidding Document.*
6. A complete set of the bidding document in English may be obtained by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address above. The bidding document will be sent by email.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *3:00 p.m. 23rd July 2026.* Electronic bidding *"shall not"* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected.
8. The address referred to above is: *Ms. Reina Gonzalez, Technical Services Manager, Belize Water Services Limited, 7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize C.A.*

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

Public advertisement

Selection of an Individual consultant

Water Supply and Modernization Program

Loan No.5754/OC-BL

Consultancy to act as BWS' internal Gender Focal Point

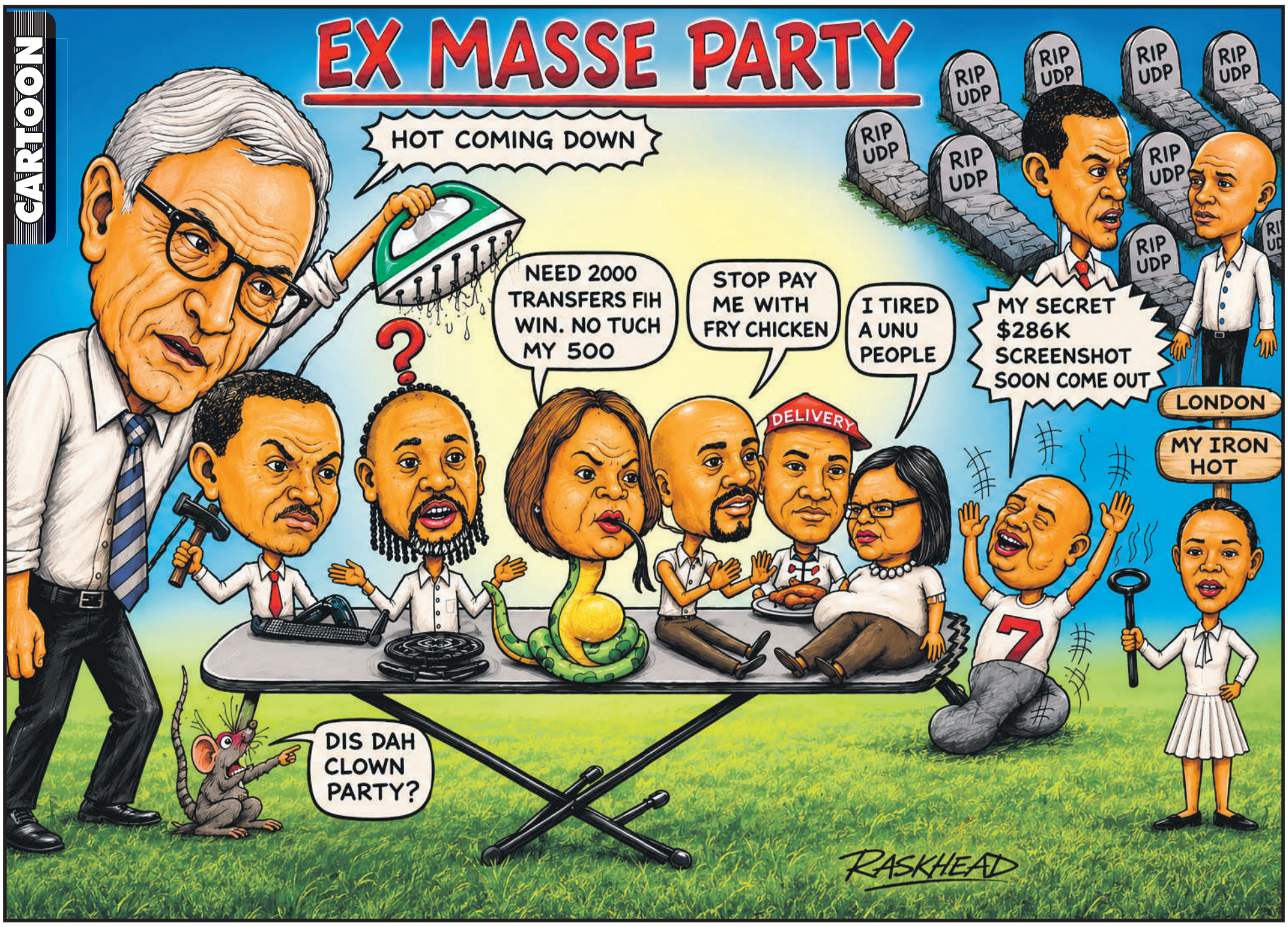
1. The *Government of Belize* (the "Borrower") has *received* financing from the *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)* (the "Bank") toward the cost of *Water Supply and Modernization Program.* The *Belize Water Services Limited*, an executing agency of the Borrower, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to perform the consulting services (hereinafter called "Services"): *Consultancy to act as BWS' internal Gender Focal Point*. More details on the Services are provided in the Terms of Reference.
2. An individual consultant will be selected under procedures, in accordance with the Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting Services financed by the IDB (GN-2350-15) which can be found at the following website: www.iadb.org/procurement.
3. Interested eligible consultants may obtain a complete set of documents and further information at the address given below from *Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00. p.m.*
4. Your expression of interest accompanied by your curriculum vitae should be submitted by *31st July 2026*, in writing to the address given below.

Address for requesting documents and information:
Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist
Belize Water Services Limited
7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize C.A.
rce@bwsl.com.bz

Address for submitting CV:
Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist
Belize Water Services Limited
7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize C.A.
rce@bwsl.com.bz

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

CARTOON



BDF Passing out Parade 2026
Remarks by
Prime Minister John Briceño
Price Barracks | 15th July 2026

Your Excellency Governor General of Belize – Dame Froyla Tzalam,
Chief Justice – Madam Louise Blenman,
Other Distinguished guests,
Members of Intake 69,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Afternoon.

Today is a proud and memorable occasion for the Belize Defence Force as we celebrate two significant milestones: The Passing Out Parade of Recruit Intake Number 69 where 134 recruits will successfully complete their training, and the Formal Change of Appointment of the Force Sergeant Major. Among these 134 recruits are 20 outstanding women, who with their male counterparts successfully completed a demanding journey that tested their discipline, resilience, courage, and commitment. To intake 69 I let me say this. Over the past eighteen

weeks of training, you have transformed from civilians into soldiers, entrusted with the responsibility of defending our nation and serving its people.

The uniform you wear today is more than a symbol of achievement; it represents honour, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to duty. As you begin your military careers, remember that your greatest strength will not only be your skills but your character. Uphold the values of loyalty, integrity, discipline, selfless service, and professionalism in everything you do. The Belize Defence Force places great trust in each of you, and I am confident that you will serve with pride and distinction wherever duty calls.

I also congratulate your families and loved ones. Your encouragement, patience, and sacrifices have played an important role in helping these young soldiers reach this milestone. This achievement belongs to you as well.

This afternoon also marks a truly historic moment for the Belize Defence Force, as we witness the Change of Appointment of the Force Sergeant Major - the highest appointment within the enlisted ranks of

the Belize Defence Force. After years of dedicated and exemplary service, Warrant Officer Class One Wilfredo Majano relinquishes the appointment of Force Sergeant Major.

On behalf of the Belize Defence Force, we extend our sincere gratitude for your steadfast leadership, unwavering professionalism, and commitment to maintaining the highest standards of discipline throughout the Force. Your contributions have strengthened our institution, and your legacy will continue to influence generations of soldiers. FSM Majano - we thank you for your faithful and distinguished service.

Now assuming this prestigious appointment is Warrant Officer Class One Dee-Ancor Reyes, who makes history as the first woman ever to serve as Force Sergeant Major of the Belize Defence Force. This is not only a personal achievement but a defining milestone for our institution and for women in military leadership across Belize and

the region. Since beginning her military career in 1999, Warrant Officer Class One Reyes has served with distinction in numerous leadership appointments, rising through the ranks by demonstrating exceptional professionalism, discipline, and dedication to the development of soldiers and the Force.

Warrant Officer Class One Reyes, your appointment reflects the values we strive to uphold as a Force - that leadership is earned through competence, character, hard work, and unwavering commitment to service. You assume this responsibility with the support of the government, the confidence of the Commander Belize Defence Force, the respect of your fellow soldiers, and the trust of every member of this institution. We are confident that you will continue to uphold the proud traditions of the Belize Defence Force while inspiring future generations of Belizeans to pursue excellence.

To our newest soldiers and to our incoming Force Sergeant Major, you represent the future of the Belize Defence Force. Together, we will preserve our proud legacy while shaping an even stronger future for our nation. May

God continue to bless each of you
May God Bless the Belize Defence Force
And May God Bless Belize.
Thank you.

FINALLY
In Punta Gorda Town
A HOUSE OF CULTURE for Toledo

15 July, 2026 - "Our Belizean identity comes about as a result of our culture," words by former Prime Minister Said Musa on 6th September, 2001 at the opening of Belize's first House of Culture in the town of Benque Viejo del Carmen.

Yesterday, on 15th July, 2026, some twenty-five years later an MOU was signed in Punta Gorda Town merging the new Welcome Center into a House of Culture for the Toledo District. NICH President Albert Vaughan and BTIA Toledo President Robert Pennil formally signed on behalf of their organizations with the full support of the Belize Tourism Board (BTB).

Respect goes to both Minister Francis Fonseca (Culture) and Minister Anthony Mahler (Tourism) for leading this vision.

Special mention to Hon. Osmond Martinez the area representative for Toledo East who has been championing this move dialoguing with many cultural leaders from various groups to engage in this exciting new development.

The idea of a House of Culture was inspired by the Cuban model for grassroots and community minded actions. LOOK AT ME – I AM BELIZE @ 45 continues on its journey for greater cultural and historical understanding and transformation. (post)

BTB - Carnival Cruise Line Hosting Students on Deck
Educational Cruise Ship Tour

Today, the Belize Tourism Board, in partnership with Carnival Corporation and Carnival Cruise Line, welcomed approximately 40 students from Anglican Cathedral College, Edward P. Yorke High School, Nazarene High School, Muffles College, and the Hope Resource Center aboard the Carnival Liberty for an educational tour. The vessel arrived in Belize with 3,681 passengers.

Students explored cruise ship operations, connected with experienced crew members, and learned about the many career opportunities available in hospitality, tourism, engineering, culinary arts, maritime services, and more.

Together, BTB and Carnival Cruise Line continue to inspire the next generation of Belizeans to explore careers in the tourism and cruise industries.

WHY WEAR BLUE?
Blue is the international colour of human trafficking awareness. By wearing blue every Friday, you stand in solidarity with survivors. You help raise awareness and show your commitment to ending exploitation in Belize.
So every Friday , let your blue speak for those whose voices have been silenced.
BLUE FRIDAYS FOR FREEDOM

SIRDI and CRESAP Receive 4 new Toyota Pickup Trucks

The Government of Belize, through a World Bank-funded initiative, officially handed over four new Toyota Hilux pickup trucks to the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI) and one to the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP).

With enhanced field access, technical teams can rapidly deploy climate-smart agriculture strategies, monitor crop health, and provide on-site support to sugarcane farmers navigating severe climate issues in northern Belize.

Implemented by the Belize Social Investment Fund, this handover marks another step forward in safeguarding and strengthening the nation's vital agriculture sector. (post)

CIMH→NMS Marine Monitoring Stations

Belize is strengthening its watch over the seas thanks to a generous donation of marine monitoring stations from the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH). In a ceremony today, Ronald Gordon, Chief Meteorologist of the National Meteorological Services (NMS), accepted the three advanced stations from Courtney Forde, who leads the CIMH mission in Belize.

Each system is equipped with SOFAR weather monitoring buoys, floats, moorings, integrated sensors, anchors, and a suite of mooring accessories, altogether valued at BZ$66,000. These stations will soon stand guard at key sites: English Caye, Glover's Reef, and the Southern Turneffe Atoll. With this cutting-edge technology, the NMS can now keep a vigilant eye on vital marine and atmospheric conditions, from wave characteristics and sea temperatures to wind and atmospheric pressure. (post)

LETTER TO THE Editor

Advertisement Driven Media in Sad State

Dear Editor,

A couple weeks ago, the news from the Caribbean on the World Bank naming someone to the region was released by our lowly "independent" and advertisement and anti-PUP media in utter distaste.

This listless media does not have the progress of Belize in mind. All they are trying to achieve is more views which would then land them more advertisement. There chatbots have no heart for Belize either.

For the past six years, since the people entered the road of progress, the media has been pummeling any progress in Belize in their penchant to return the UDP(who they supported in November 2020).

For many media houses, the UDP means more advertisement dollars…this is especially for 7 who as we all know had to secretly settle with BTL to repay for bad debt by the past owner and BTL Chairman. The gentleman has passed but the story is real and 7 is the vilest of them all.

So back to the media in General and the World Bank appointee: If his name would be different then the crass media would have ignored the story. But no, they found a way to manufacture a story and their addiction for more Social Media view count.

I as a Belizean will apologize for our media who did to this item the same as they have been doing to the government. They ignore ALL the good stories of development that can be seen in the Belize Times every week and stop at a pothole in the middle of nowhere.

Oh I did travel to Dangriga and rode on the 100 plus miles of GREAT Coastal Road…this is the one missed by the yellow one and his repeater stations.

People…read the Belize Times and you will read the truth on the progress and success of the Belizean people led by the PUP.

Serving the People
Jose

NEW COURSE OFFERING!
Geographic Information Systems Technician
You'll learn how modern mapping tools capture and analyse our planet through lidar (topographic & bathymetric), satellite imagery, drones, and GPS technology.
Available at the Belize City and Orange Walk ITVETS!
Learn more
TUITION FREE FOR INITIAL COHORT!
Ministry of Education
Government of BELIZE
MoECST

LETTER TO THE Editor

Summer Builds Brighter Futures

Dear Editor,

As the summer holidays begin across Belize, it is encouraging to see communities from north to south and east to west coming together to invest in our nation's greatest resource—our children.

This year, summer camps are offering far more than recreation. Young Belizeans are benefiting from reading programs, football, canvas painting, ballet, speech and physical therapy sessions, digital skills workshops, and mentorship opportunities. Whether organized by churches, community groups, the government, private organizations, or political representatives, these initiatives provide children with safe spaces to learn, grow, and build confidence.

In Orange Walk East, children are gaining valuable life skills through creative and educational programs, while in Orange Walk Town and San Estevan, the Hon. John Briceño Summer Camp is combining sports, art, and the opportunity to meet Belizean professional cyclist Derrick Chavarria, inspiring the next generation to dream big.

The recent success of the inaugural Primary and High School Super Nationals also reminds us of the incredible talent that exists among our youth. By combining sports, education, and community engagement, we are helping shape disciplined, confident, and well-rounded citizens.

Summer camps are more than holiday activities—they are investments in Belize's future. Every child is encouraged to read, create, compete, or discover a new passion is another step toward a stronger nation.

Let us continue supporting these initiatives so that every Belizean child has the opportunity to learn, thrive, and reach their full potential. Together, we are building a brighter future for Belize.

Sincerely,

B. Williams

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

The Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank), in accordance with Section 57 (1) of the Central Bank of Belize Act, Revised Edition 2020, intends to appoint an external auditor for the audit of its financial statements for the upcoming three-year cycle commencing January 1, 2027.

The Central Bank invites eligible public accounting firms licensed to practice in Belize to submit tenders comprising technical and financial proposals. To be considered for the award, firms must demonstrate previous experience in providing auditing services to medium or large size organizations.

Tenders must be submitted to the Central Bank and received no later than 4:00 p.m. on 7 August 2026.

Submissions must be made via email to:

Email address: internal.audit@centralbank.org.bz
Subject Line: "Firm Name" - Tender for Auditing Services

The Bank reserves the right to request additional information and to decline to accept any or all proposals.

For inquiries regarding the scope of work, please contact the Chief Internal Auditor, Central Bank of Belize, at phone number: (501) 223-6194 or email: internal.audit@centralbank.org.bz. A "Guideline for Audit Bidding" sheet will be provided upon request.

Hate Cannot Win Elections
Only Love Can Do That

--Contributed--

There is a hard lesson the UDP does not seem to be able to learn: **Hate cannot win elections, only Love can do that.**

Every day, fus ting da mawning, they preach hate through all the mediums they control, hoping this will eventually turn voters against the Government and PUP representatives. But the more they do so, the more popular John Briceño and the PUP become. They hate the very fact that the people of Belize are so much in love with the PUP. But the reason for that is simple, which is that **the PUP has constantly been showing love to the people of Belize**.

For 13 long years, the UDP did not build one single house for a struggling family. The PUP, on the other hand, ever since taking office in 2020, has been handing over homes every month to families who most need them, transforming countless lives across the nation. And thousands of new landowners are receiving their leases and titles under this administration, unlike the days of the UDP when ministers were grabbing for themselves portions of the street in Belmopan, BDF training grounds at Baldy Beacon and public seafront at Belizean Beach.

The UDP spent $1.5 Billion from Petrocaribe without prior approval by the National Assembly, and squandered millions upon millions more from our local oil industry, yet they failed to invest a dollar in National Health Insurance. They gave away $500 Million to their cronies through privatization of Boledo. Now the PUP is generously investing proceeds from Fi Wi Boledo in the Belizean people through NHI services, Sports and the Official Charities Fund.

At the same time, Free Education is being rolled out incrementally across the nation, paving the way to success, productivity and prosperity for countless children and young people.

The PUP has shown love and appreciation to our teachers and public officers, granting them sizeable increases in salaries and allowances, while significantly increasing the Minimum Wage for other workers, and reducing overall unemployment to as low as 2 percent.

In constituencies across the country, led by Prime Minister Briceño himself in Orange Walk Central, PUP leaders continue to commune and mingle with the common people at organized events such as movie nights, football watch parties, night markets and pop-up shops.

Meanwhile, the UDP continues to preach hate, the noise being led by their loud-mouth talk-show host who had already hustled for herself almost 20 houses and multiple parcels of choice land under the last UDP administration, along with over $100,000 in grant from the Ministry of Housing, monies that were budgeted and presumably intended for poor people.

Now we see their chief thug (one Yellowman) threatening electors, assaulting and obstructing dedicated public officers from Elections and Boundaries in the execution of their essential duties.

These same people are also publicly threatening to become violent the next time they hold another of their 'pilinky' protests. They seem to have forgotten that it is precisely this type of behavior that caused the trade unions to distance themselves from the UDP at BTL Headquarters and Social Security Office in Belize City, and to flatly turn down the invitation to attend their most recent, poorly attended event of 300 protesters, also in the Old Capital.

Meanwhile, their conceited Chairlady, the failed comic, continues calling people names that keep backfiring on her, like 'cartoon character'. "I started a joke…but had I only known that the joke was on me."

Tracy and her hapless clique are just not getting it. While they continue to hate on everybody, including some of their own, long-time, staunch UDP supporters who are now distancing themselves from that party, the PUP continues to thrive on Love. Hate cannot win elections; only Love can do that!

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT
TRANSFER OF ELECTORS
1ST JULY TO 31ST AUGUST ANNUALLY
HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR RESIDENCE FROM ONE DIVISION TO ANOTHER?
If yes, to apply you must:
Be a registered elector since 2nd July 2018
Be residing at the new address for 2 months or more
Visit the registration office for the division in which you now reside
To facilitate the process, you MUST bring ONE of the following:
• Voter's ID
• Driver's License
• Social Security Card
• Passport
PRODUCED BY ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT

VACANCY NOTICE
OMBUDSMAN

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BELIZE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to fill the vacant position of **OMBUDSMAN**.

Under section 3(2) of the Ombudsman Act, Chapter 5 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, the Ombudsman is a Parliamentary Commissioner who is appointed by the Governor-General, acting on the recommendations of both Houses of the National Assembly contained in resolutions passed in that behalf. The Office of the Ombudsman is not deemed to be an office in the public service.

The Office of the Ombudsman is being transitioned into Belize's National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), in keeping with Belize's international human rights commitments and the Paris Principles. Over the coming period the mandate, functions and enabling legislation of the Office are expected to be expanded and strengthened accordingly. The successful candidate will be expected to play a central role in designing and giving effect to this transition and, in addition to the present statutory functions, to discharge an evolving human rights mandate.

Functions

The main functions of the Ombudsman are the following:

- To investigate complaints received from the public under the Ombudsman Act about the administrative acts and decisions of Central Government departments (including the Belize Police Department), local authorities, and other public statutory bodies and State-owned enterprises, involving official corruption or other wrongdoing;
- To make recommendations to the competent authorities for appropriate action against the person(s) responsible, where there is evidence of a breach of duty, or misconduct, or the commission of a criminal offence;
- To review the decisions of the authorities in accordance with Part V of the Freedom of Information Act, where access to a document has been refused by a Government department or other prescribed authority;
- To perform all other functions assigned to the Ombudsman under the Ombudsman Act or any other law.

Minimum Qualifications and Skills

Candidates should possess the following qualifications and skills:

- A Bachelor's degree in law, business or public administration, or other related discipline. Qualification as an Attorney-at-Law, or an advanced degree (LL.M) in law, would be an asset;
- A minimum of eight (8) years of relevant professional work experience;
- Demonstrated knowledge of, and expertise in, human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, including familiarity with the international and regional human rights treaty system (for example, the Universal Periodic Review, the Human Rights Council and the principal human rights treaty bodies);
- A thorough knowledge of the Ombudsman Act of Belize and the procedure prescribed therein for the investigation of complaints;
- A high level of understanding and knowledge of the laws and regulations of Belize, including a sound command of administrative and public law;
- Experience in complaint investigation and resolution in the public sector;
- Ability to deal with persons from a wide variety of backgrounds and to maintain an objective understanding of different perspectives;
- An excellent command of written and spoken English;
- Professional demeanour and impeccable credentials;
- If possible, familiarity with the workings of Ombudsman institutions in other jurisdictions.

The Ombudsman must be non-partisan and a person of integrity and high national standing.

Disqualifications

Under section 5 of the Ombudsman Act, no person is qualified for appointment as Ombudsman if he or she:

- is a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate;
- is a member of a local authority;
- is an undischarged bankrupt; or
- has at any time been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude.

Age Limit

Candidates should be between 30 and 62 years of age.

Salary

Subject to negotiation and subsequent confirmation by the National Assembly.

How to Apply

Each application must include:

- a letter of application;
- a current curriculum vitae (CV); and
- the names and contact details of at least two (2) referees.

Deadline for Applications

Interested persons in possession of the requisite qualifications and experience should submit their applications to the **Clerk to the National Assembly, Belmopan, at ClerkNA@bna.gov.bz and info@belizeparliament.bz no later than Friday, 24th July 2026**

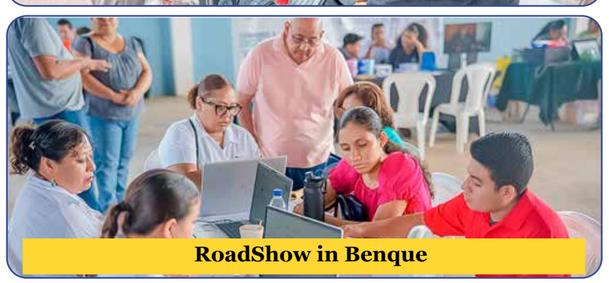
PlanBelize 2.0

Party Leader PM John Briceño

OWC Drive-In Move & Watch Party

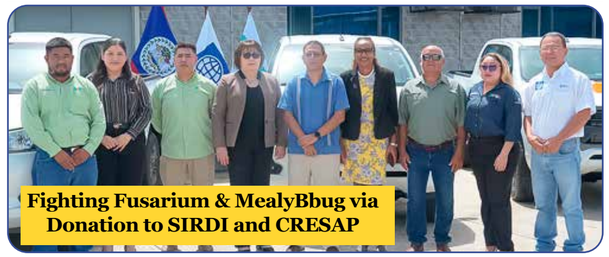
OW Councilors at Ritmo de Oro II

Visit to MSME RoadShow in OW Central Park



RoadShow in Benque

Belize Social Investment Fund & World Bank



Fighting Fusarium & MealyBbug via Donation to SIRDI and CRESAP

Min. Thea Garcia Ramirez for Government of Belize

Belize to Chair SICA's Social Integration Council

Min. Anthony Mahler, for Tourism, Youth, Sports and Diaspora Relations

High-Level Athletics Development w/ NACAC President, Mr. Mike Sands

At Belize Day in Miramar, Florida

SUMMER SMILES

CitCo Peewee Basketball

Youth In Agriculture via Min. Ferguson

Cayo North: A variety on land and sea

Sandy Hunter Lib: Plant d Seed Mek wi Read

Hon. Mai: OWS's Agric camp

Hon. Mahler's BTB & Carnival: Students on deck

FLOOD RESPONSE

Government efficient in keeping people safe

'Seguimos Muy Bien'

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE

Philip Goldson Highway Belize City, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicle. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicle are sold.

PARCEL NO. 399 NEAR MILE 2.5 ON PHILIP GOLDSON HIGHWAY, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE DISTRICT:

Registration Section	Block	Parcel
Caribbean Shores	16	399
The freehold property of Mr. Ray Hohenkirk and Ms. Kathleen Hohenkirk.		

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"
TERMS: STRICTLYCASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail:kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auctions

NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BELIZE A.D. 2025

CLAIM NO. 675 OF 2025

	(CONEY DRIVE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD.	**CLAIMANT**
	(	
BETWEEN	**(AND**	
	(	
	(EDER MEDINA	**DEFENDANTS**
	(JASMINE MEDINA	

TO: **EDER MEDINA** and **JASMINE MEDINA** both of 9 ¾ Mile Philip Goldson Highway, Ladyville, Belize District

TAKE NOTICE THAT Claim No. 675 of 2025 has been commenced against you in the High Court of Belize by **CONEY DRIVE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD.** with registered office situate at No. 4792 Coney Drive, Belize City, Belize in which the Claimant claims damages for breach of an agreement made partly in writing and partly oral on or about the 29th May, 2024 together with interest and costs.

AND THAT it has been ordered that Notice of this Claim be published by this advertisement. If you desire to defend the said Claim you must file an Acknowledgement of Service within fourteen (14) days after the second publication of the claim at the High Court Registry. In default of your failure to file the Acknowledgement of Service, proceedings may be heard and determined in your absence and judgment may be entered against you.

The Court office is at High Court Registry, Regent Street, Belize City, Belize, Telephone No. 227-7377, Fax No. 227-0181. The office is open between 8:30a.m. and 4:00p.m. Monday to Friday except on public and bank holidays.

Dated the 10th day of July, 2026.

MCKOY TORRES LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Claimant
30 Newtown Barracks
Belize City, Belize
Ph: (501) 223-1076

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE

Belize City, Burrel Boom, Belize District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicle. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicle are sold.

1. Parcel No. 749 Diego Street Near its Intersection with Stann Ave., St. Martin Deporres West, Belize District:

Registration Section	Block	Parcel
St. Martin Deporres West	45	749
The freehold property of Mr. Kent Williams.		

2. 4046.86 S.M being Lot No. 4 in Fresh Pond Community, Burrel Boom Area, Belize District:

All that piece or parcel of land situate being Lot. 4 in the Fresh Pond Community, Burrel Boom Area, Belize District, being the freehold property of Mr. Chezawn Michael Ramos and Bernadine Cynthia Bull Ramos.

3. Vehicle:

2016 Charcoal Chevrolet Equinox

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"
TERMS: STRICTLYCASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail:kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auctions

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW METAL ROOF AT THE RACCOON STREET POLICE STATION IN BELIZE CITY

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), intends to execute the Construction of a New Metal Roof at the Raccoon Street Police Station in Belize City.

Provided there are no delays, Works are expected to start within a month. The MIDH hereby invites interested contractors with experience in building construction to be part of this bidding process.

The Scope of Works will include:

- Demolition of Tower & preparatory works
- Installation of Primary structural steel
- Installation of Secondary roof framing
- Supply and Installation of Roof covering & trim
- Installation of Rainwater gutters
- Connections & anchorage
- Installation of Corrosion protection on steel members
- Fasteners & accessories
- Labour (installation & erection)
- Contingency

The Project is being implemented by the MIDH, Project Execution Unit (PEU). An Engineering Coordinator within the PEU will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities.

Consideration will be given to local firms who have qualified extensive experience in building construction of a similar size and complexity.

Minimum Qualification Criteria:

- General Construction Experience: 3 Years
- Specific Construction Experience in Building Construction
- Contract Management Experience: 3 Years
- Construction Experience in a Project of Similar Size and Complexity (one)
- Access to Line of Credit: $125,000.00
- Average annual turnover of minimum: Bz$250,000.00
- Qualified registered Engineer: 5 years' experience

Effective **Monday 20 July 2026**, Bidding Documents are available at a cost of **Bz$250.00** from the address below.

Bidders shall submit proposals (one original and one copy) in a sealed envelope to the address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission must include the name and address of the applicant and be clearly marked "**Bid Submission for the Construction of a New Metal Roof at the Raccoon Street Police Station in Belize City**".

All Bidding Documents shall reach the office of the Chief Engineer/Engineering Coordinator at the address below no later than **Friday 31 July 2026** at **10:00 a.m**. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. The Ministry shall not accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the applicants.

A site visit will be held on **Thursday 23 July 2026** at **10:00am** at the project site. Bidders shall congregate at the Raccoon Street Police Station in Belize City.

Attention: **Mr. Evondale Moody**
Chief Engineer / Engineering Coordinator
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
BELIZE C.A.
Tel: +501-828-5221
Email: peu@midh.gov.bz

MORE DEVELOPMENT IN PORT LOYOLA WITH HON GILROY USHER

There is construction of another starter home as well as another new street. Both projects are well underway.

Port Loyola continues to see unprecedented development with Hon Gilroy Usher as Area Representative for the division. This is consistent with the planBelize policy of the Prime Minister Briceño government.

More streets and development are in the pipeline. The cargo and cruise terminal is a long term project that is destined to tremendously and positively impact the Port area.

Drug Addiction

By Hon. Gilroy Usher

I

1 The main goal of addicts is the next high

2 Homeless , dirty , hungry. That is no lie

3 None of them wanted such horrible life

4 They were hooked easily without a strife

5 Drinks and smoke were often spiked secretly

6. Friends gave them much stronger drugs steadily

II

7 Withdrawal symptoms are very painful

8 Cheating with rehab is never helpful

9 Success requires a drug free surrounding

10 Stumble makes victory astonishing

11 Strong will to end drug abuse is a must

12.Your interest first prevents painful trust

Belize - CARICOM

Humanitarian Response to Venezuela

July 13, 2026 - The Government of Belize joins eight other CARICOM Member States in providing humanitarian assistance to the people and Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela following the devastating earthquakes that have claimed 4,333 lives to date. Current reports indicate that 6,462 people have been rescued and 16,000 people are injured. Thousands of people are now displaced due to extensive damage to homes. Critical infrastructure and essential services have been affected. This collective response reflects the Caribbean Community's enduring commitment to solidarity, compassion, and support at this time of crisis.

On July 12, 2026, a shipment of 88 containers bearing 258.9 tonnes of relief supplies arrived at the Port of La Guaira, the worst-affected area in Venezuela. The relief shipment was received by Yvan Gil, Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs, together with Raúl Li Causi, Vice Minister for the Caribbean.

The Government of Guyana coordinated the shipment on behalf of The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. This effort ensured the timely delivery of aid to Venezuela.

Supplies include food, potable water, water storage tanks, medicine, diapers, hygiene supplies, mattresses, and blankets to support communities affected by the earthquakes and contribute to ongoing relief efforts.

The Government of Belize reaffirms its solidarity with the people and Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and remains committed to strengthening regional cooperation and supporting humanitarian action across the Caribbean. (release)

BELTRAIDE: "THANK YOU, ORANGE WALK!"

The Office of the Prime Minister joins BELTRAIDE in a massive thank you to everyone who came out today to support our incredible local entrepreneurs at the Buy Belizean Expo. Your energy and commitment to shopping local mean the world to our small business community!

A heartfelt thank you to:

Gold Sponsors:

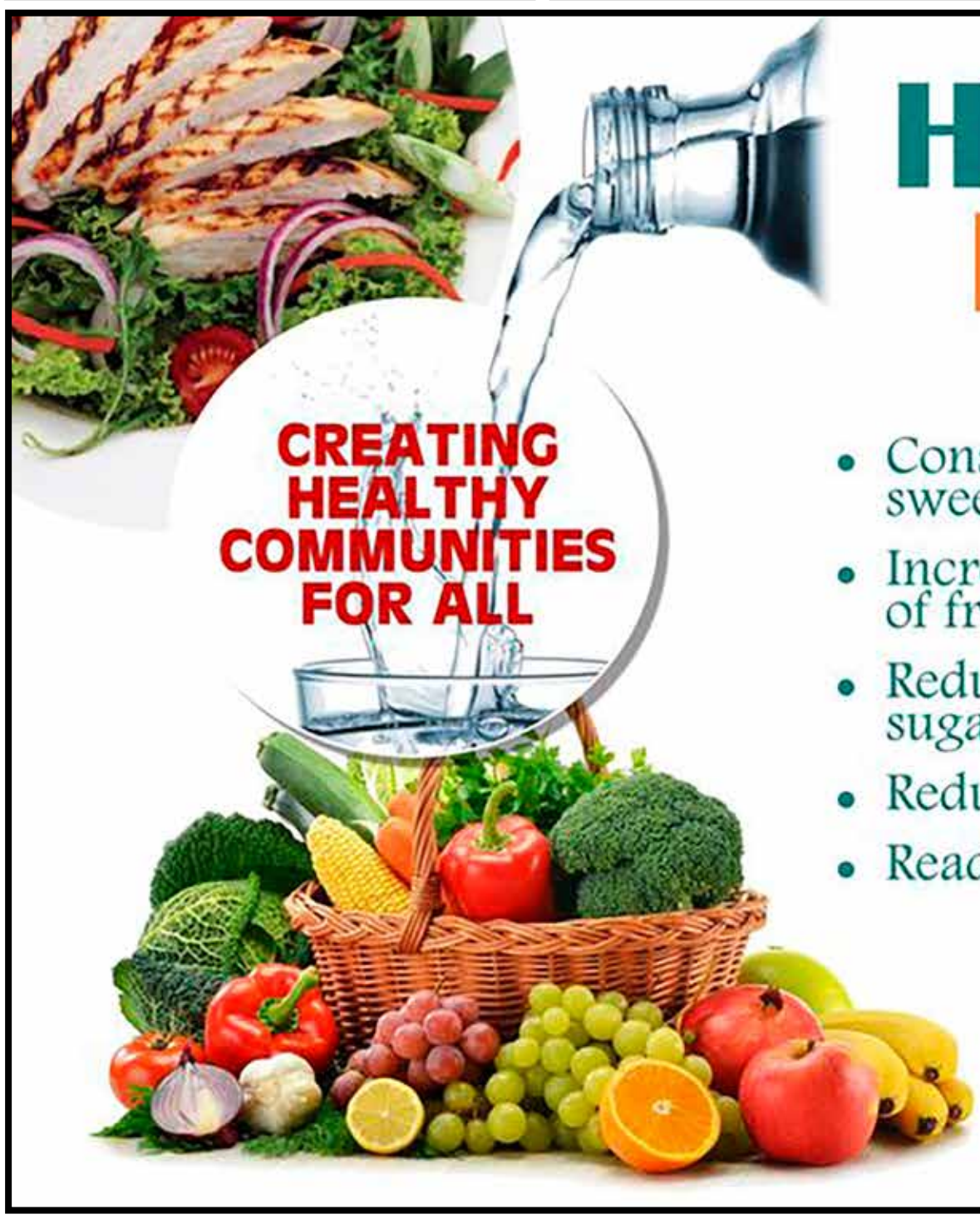
Atlantic Bank, DigiWallet

Silver Sponsor: The Belize Bank Limited

Bronze Sponsors:

Atlantic Insurance Company Limited, Finance Belize, Development Finance Corporation, Central Bank of Belize

The Roadshow is in Corozal, this week! The Belize Times will highlight them next week as the Roadshow takes a break to fuel up.



HEALTHY EATING

- Consume water instead of sweetened drinks
- Increase daily consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables
- Reduce consumption of sugary and fatty foods
- Reduce salt/sodium intake
- Read food labels

PAHO
Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization
Americas

NATIONAL MSME ROADSHOW

Empowering Businesses. Building Belize.

SPONSORED BY

Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez

17TH JULY 2026

ANDRES CAMPOS CIVIC CENTER

Join Us!
LET'S GROW BUSINESSES & BUILD A STRONGER BELIZE TOGETHER!

EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS!

FEES WAIVED FOR THE FIRST **20 PERSONS** TO REGISTER THEIR **BUSINESS NAME!**

&

FEES WAIVED FOR THE FIRST **20 PERSONS** TO COMPLETE THEIR **ANNUAL FILING FEE!**

Take advantage of this opportunity and let's move your business forward!

BCCAR
Belize Companies & Corporate Affairs Registry

Thea
LEADERSHIP THAT DELIVERS!

OPM-IPCU-UNIDO First Industrial Strategy Through UNIDO Study Tour in Japan

The Office of the Prime Minister, through the Investment Policy and Compliance Unit (IPCU) in the Ministry of Investment, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), successfully completed a week-long study tour to Japan from June 29 to July 3, 2026, as part of the ongoing development of Belize's first Industrial Strategy.

The study tour provided Belizean policymakers with firsthand exposure to Japan's innovative approaches to sustainable industrial development, blue economy industries, biotechnology, seaweed cultivation and processing, aquaculture technologies, biomass utilization, carbon sequestration, environmental technologies, investment promotion, and industrial policy implementation. The knowledge and experiences gained will directly support Belize's efforts to develop a modern industrial strategy that promotes economic diversification, value addition, environmental sustainability, and increased competitiveness.

The Belize delegation comprised Ms. Carmen Sosa, Executive Director, Economic Development Council; Ms. Felicia Cruz, Director, Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation; Ms. Keisha Rodriguez, Policy Director, Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining; Ms. Jasmine Shoman, Investment Associate, BELTRAIDE; Ms. Nadicah Galvez, Investment Policy Officer, Investment Policy and Compliance Unit; and Mr. Jairo Chavez, Investment Policy Officer, Investment Policy and Compliance Unit.

The delegation was accompanied by UNIDO representatives: Dr. Nobuya Haraguchi, Chief, Economic Research Section; Dr. Anders Isaksson, Chief, Division of Industrial Policy Advice and Capacity Development; and Mr. Christoph Graeser, Industrial Policy Analyst.

Key engagements included meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency; Shiga Prefectural Government; Yamaguchi University; the Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation; Japan's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies; as well as innovative Japanese companies, including UMITRON, Sunshiki Co., Ltd., Sea Bloom K.K., WEF Institute of Technology, Novelgen Inc., FutureBud International Co., Ltd., and Euglena Co., Ltd.

Belize's Industrial Strategy with Blue and Green Industrial Policies seeks to promote more value-added production, strengthen productive sectors, increase exports, create quality employment, and encourage environmentally sustainable industrialization. Building upon the country's comparative advantages in both the blue and green economies, the strategy aims to position Belize as a competitive and resilient economy while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Ministry of Investment expresses its sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan and UNIDO for facilitating this important knowledge exchange. The insights gained during the study tour will contribute significantly to the continued development of Belize's Industrial Strategy and strengthen the country's capacity to implement evidence-based industrial policies that foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth. (release)

Join us for the official launch of
Belize Moves
Inspiring Belizeans to
adopt healthier lifestyles.
Move Yuh Body. Move Belize!
Dress Code: Belize Moves Active Wear, Bright Colors, and Comfortable Shoes
Thursday, July 23rd 2026
Sir George Brown Park,
City of Belmopan
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Ministry of Health & Wellness
Equal Health for All
Caribbean Public Health Agency
CARPHA
TAIWAN ICDF
The City of Belmopan

Belize Assumes COSEFIN Pro Tempore Presidency

July 13, 2026 - Belize has officially assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Finance or Treasury of Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic (COSEFIN) for the second half of 2026. This marks a historic milestone for Belize, as the country holds the Presidency of the regional body for the first time since COSEFIN's establishment. The transition took place during the LVIII Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in Guatemala City.

The meeting brought together Ministers and senior finance officials to review progress on the regional fiscal agenda, strengthen technical cooperation, and formally transfer the Presidency from the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Dominican Republic to the Ministry of Economic Transformation of Belize.

During its Presidency, the Dominican Republic advanced key regional initiatives, including the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Financial Management, the establishment of the Committee of Directors of Tax Administrations, the strengthening of harmonized fiscal statistics, and technical cooperation on tax administration, disaster risk financing, climate resilience, and results-based budgeting.

Upon assuming the Presidency, Dr. Hon. Osmond Martinez reaffirmed Belize's commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and advancing practical solutions to shared fiscal and economic challenges.

"Today marks a historic moment for Belize as we assume the COSEFIN Pro Tempore Presidency for the first time. Belize understands that leadership is not measured by the size of an economy, but by the ability to listen, build consensus, and unite efforts around a shared purpose. We look forward to strengthening the partnerships that have defined COSEFIN over the past two decades while creating new opportunities for collaboration between Central America and the Caribbean."

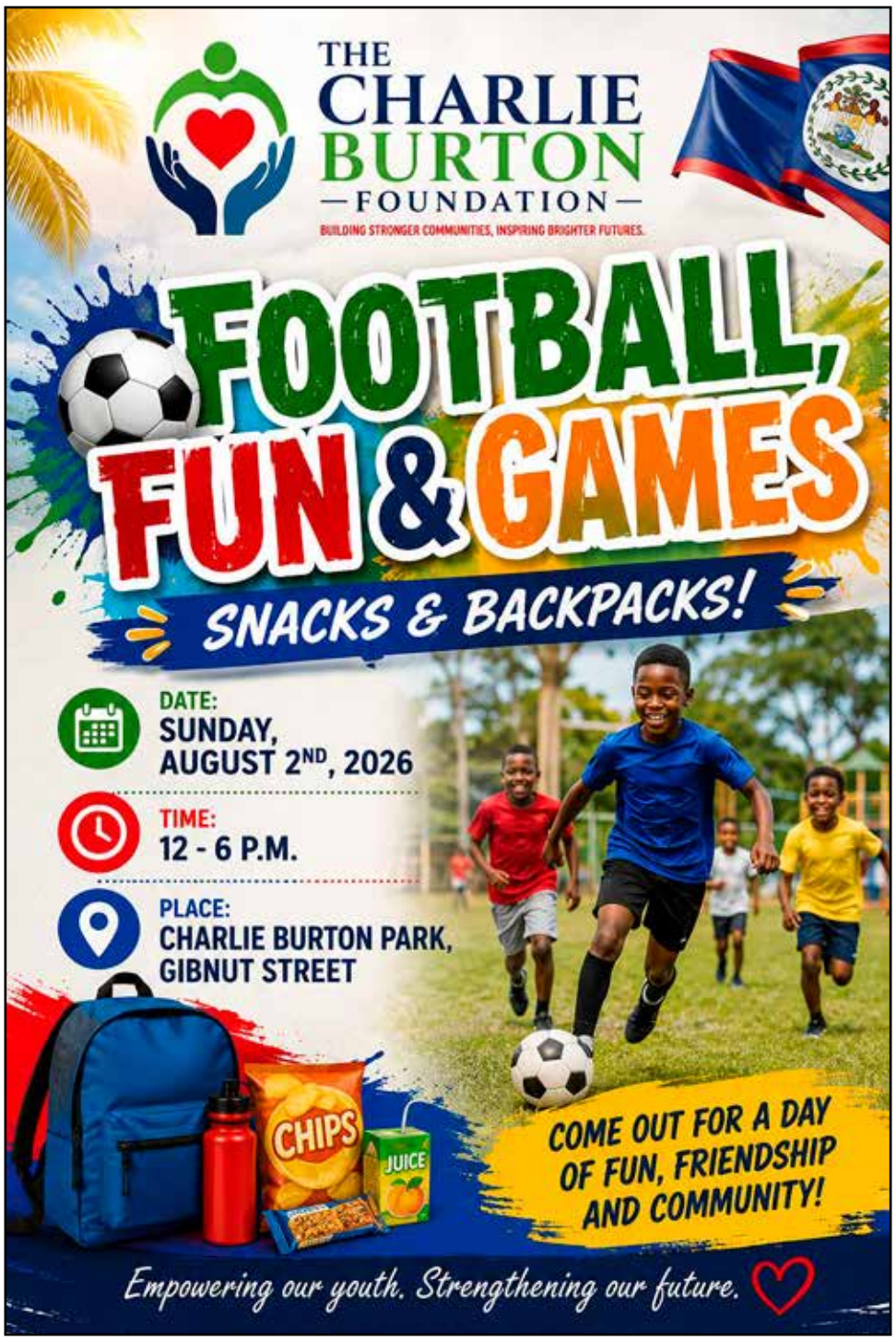
During its Pro Tempore Presidency, Belize will continue to advance COSEFIN's regional priorities, with a focus on fiscal resilience, public financial management, tax administration, institutional capacity building, and technical cooperation.

The meeting also included the presentation of COSEFIN's 2025–2029 Institutional Strategic Plan, as well as progress on the Biannual Operational Plan for implementing the Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Financial Management, which will guide regional efforts to strengthen fiscal preparedness for climate, health, and economic risks.

Representatives from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) also participated, presenting regional initiatives on evidence-based public financial management and health expenditure efficiency aimed at strengthening fiscal sustainability.

Belize's assumption of the Pro Tempore Presidency reflects the country's commitment to regional integration and collaborative action. Working alongside member states and development partners, Belize will promote a forward-looking agenda that supports resilient public finances, sustainable economic growth, and shared regional prosperity. (release)

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT
TRANSFER OF ELECTORS
1ST JULY TO 31ST AUGUST ANNUALLY
HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR RESIDENCE FROM ONE DIVISION TO ANOTHER?
If yes, to apply you must:
Be a registered elector since 2nd July 2018
Be residing at the new address for 2 months or more
Visit the registration office for the division in which you now reside
To facilitate the process, you MUST bring ONE of the following:
• Voter's ID
• Driver's License
• Social Security Card
• Passport
PRODUCED BY ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES DEPARTMENT



The Impossible Dream

--Contributed—

Yesterday, the rain did not fall upon a city.

It fell upon a people who still believe that miracles occasionally visit the humble.

Across Belize, across Mexico, across every barrio where Spanish is spoken with the cadence of memory, televisions became modern campfires. Families gathered as though summoned by an ancient conch shell. In Central Park, beneath a reluctant drizzle, hundreds stood shoulder to shoulder. No one complained about the rain. Hope has never feared getting wet.

We waited.

Not merely for ninety minutes of football.

We waited for history to hesitate.

We waited for destiny to blink.

We waited for the impossible dream.

For centuries, our peoples have lived between prophecy and disappointment. We inherited civilizations that measured the heavens with astonishing precision, only to see those heavens darkened by conquest. We learned that faith often survives where victory does not. Yet every generation returns to the field believing that perhaps this time history will be kinder.

Yesterday, we believed.

But history remained upright.

Reality, indifferent to dreams, reminded us that it owes humanity no favors.

Mexico could not break the spell.

There is a painful honesty that football teaches better than philosophy. Football is not won by the beauty of possession. It is not won by elegant passes that weave through defenders like poetry through silence. It is not won by courage alone, nor by the beating of a nation's heart.

Football is a merciless arithmetic.

The only language the scoreboard understands is the goal.

And yesterday, Mexico could not speak that language.

We gave them our hearts. Many gave them their prayers.

Some whispered to the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Others, perhaps unknowingly, awakened older voices still.

Far beneath the asphalt of modern cities, beneath cathedrals built upon forgotten temples, the Mexica gods stirred within the stones. Huitzilopochtli tightened his shield. Quetzalcóatl lifted his feathered head into the rain. The ancient drums echoed beneath the stadium, inaudible to microphones but remembered by history itself. Yet even the gods know that there are days when destiny refuses to negotiate. Yesterday was one of those days.

England prevailed, not because it possessed greater passion, for passion knows no flag. Not because Providence had chosen one people over another. It prevailed because, on that afternoon, its talent, discipline, and execution proved decisive where it mattered most: before the goal.

History demands that we acknowledge this truth, even when it wounds us.

There is dignity in recognizing excellence, even in defeat.

But there is another history unfolding beneath the visible one.

The Other Side of History.

It reminds us that civilizations are never measured by a single battle, nor by a single match. Had the Maya surrendered after the first defeat, their language would no longer be spoken. Had the Garifuna accepted exile as extinction, their drums would have fallen silent generations ago. Had Belize believed only in victories, it would never have become a nation. The pyramid teaches what the scoreboard cannot.

Standing before the ruins of Teotihuacan, Octavio Paz saw that civilizations rise not because they never fall, but because every stone carries the memory of another beginning. A pyramid does not despair because night has arrived. It waits for dawn, knowing that the sun has always returned, even after the longest darkness.

So too with football.

Yesterday belongs to England.

Tomorrow belongs to no one.

That uncertainty is the last sanctuary of hope.

One day, perhaps, another child will emerge from the dusty streets of Oaxaca, from the mountains of Chiapas, from Mérida, Guadalajara, Monterrey, or a forgotten village where a ball is still stitched more with dreams than with leather. He will carry not only his nation's expectations but the unfinished hopes of generations who stood in rain-soaked parks believing in impossible things.

And when that day comes, history may finally bend, not because destiny has changed, but because perseverance has outlived disappointment.

For history has never belonged exclusively to those who win.

It belongs to those who refuse to stop believing after they lose.

Yesterday, the rain washed away our tears.

Tomorrow, it may water the field from which a new dream will grow.

That is the other side of history.

It is always darker before the first light touches the pyramid.

(Above: Written the day after the Mexico loss to England in the 2026 World Cup)

Electricity Strategic Planning Meeting

Belize City - July 15th, 2026

Today, the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy & Logistics convened an Electricity Strategic Planning Meeting, bringing together Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) and other key energy sector partners to discuss the future of Belize's electricity supply.

The meeting focused on reviewing the current state of the electricity sector, assessing near- and long-term generation capacity, identifying future supply needs, and developing collaborative solutions to address projected energy demands.

Through continued partnership and strategic planning, the Ministry and its stakeholders remain committed to strengthening Belize's energy sector, enhancing energy security, and ensuring a reliable, resilient, and sustainable electricity supply for all Belizeans. (post)

Belize is growing probably a bit faster than our electric demands can be satisfied. This is one problem that Belize is willing and able to tackle. Belize has a glut of solar electricity to come online in a little more than one year so we will continue doing well. Belize will someday soon shed the load of depending on Mexico for power. We will probably always be linked to them but we could probably one day be selling to them and Central America. Think about that.

Request for Quotation (RFQ)

"Establishing the enabling environment for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan through strengthened governance, improved management and enhanced monitoring of Belize's coastal and marine resources"

Procurement of Uniforms for the Belize Forest Department

The Government of Belize has received financing through the Government Strategic Allocation from the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future and intends to apply a portion of the funds to make eligible payments under the Contract for which this invitation is being issued.

The *Blue Bonds and Finance Permanence Unit*, on behalf of the Belize Forest Department hereby invites sealed offers from eligible and qualified Suppliers to submit a quotation for the following items:

Qty.	Items	Color	Place of Delivery
48	Women's long sleeve shirt (UPV 50+ protective long sleeve with dry fit technology)	Dark Stone or Cirrus Grey	Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit 3rd Floor Eleanor Hall Lake Independence Boulevard Belize City, Belize
3	Women's long sleeve shirt plus size (UV protective long sleeve shirt) 3X	Dark Stone or Cirrus Grey	
90	Men's long sleeve shirt (UV protective long sleeve)	Fossil or Cool Grey	
62	Uniform Pants Male (Rugged, durable, that can be worn in the field if necessary)	OD Green	
36	Uniform Pants Female (Rugged, durable, that can be worn in the field if necessary)	OD Green	
62	Field Pants Male (Rugged, durable, tactical field pants)	OD Green	
36	Field Pants Female (Rugged, durable, tactical field pants)	OD Green	

Suppliers may submit a quotation on all items.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain a complete set of the shopping documents and further information at the following email address projectmanager.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz between *9:00 am to 4:00 pm local Belize time*.

The contract will be awarded to the Supplier whose quotation is evaluated as substantially responsive to the Shopping Documents and offers the lowest evaluated cost. Your Quotation should be sealed in an envelope and addressed to and delivered at the address given below by ***August 7th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m***.

Attention: *Project Manager*
Address: *Blue Bonds and Finance Permanence Unit*
3rd Floor Eleanor Hall Building,
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City, Belize

Late quotations will be rejected and returned to sender. Electronic submissions will not be permitted.

Belize Assumes Pro Tempore Presidency (PPT)

Council of Social Integration (CIS)

Belmopan. Belize. July 10th, 2026. The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs (MHDFSGA), has officially assumed the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Council of Social Integration (CIS) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) for the July-December 2026 term, following the conclusion of the 83rd Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Hon. Thea Garcia-Ramirez, Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, will lead Belize's presidency. Belize takes over the leadership from the Dominican Republic, reaffirming its commitment to advancing social integration, strengthening regional cooperation, and promoting sustainable development that places people at the centre of public policy.

"Belize accepts this responsibility with humility, gratitude, and a steadfast commitment to advancing our shared vision of a more inclusive, resilient, and equitable region," stated Minister Garcia-Ramirez. "The challenges facing our societies are increasingly interconnected, and our response must therefore be equally coordinated, inclusive, and forward-looking."

Belize expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Dominican Republic for their exemplary leadership over the past six months, noting that their stewardship strengthened regional cooperation, advanced the collective social agenda, and reaffirmed the value of solidarity as the foundation of regional integration.

During its tenure, Belize's Pro Tempore Presidency will concentrate regional efforts on core priorities, such as:

- Strengthening inclusive and resilient social protection systems that leave no one behind;
- Advancing comprehensive care systems that better support children, older persons, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and families; and
- Promoting coordinated, humane, and people-centred approaches to migration, return, and reintegration.

As Pro Tempore President, Belize will lead and coordinate the implementation of the actions and agreements adopted by the Council of Social Integration over the next six months, advancing the implementation of the SISCA Strategic Plan while promoting evidence-informed policymaking, knowledge exchange, and strengthened collaboration among member states.

Minister Garcia-Ramirez was supported technically by Mr. Dylan Williams, Director of Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, as the Technical Coordinator for Belize for SICA/SISCA.

MHDFSGA remains committed to working closely with SICA member states, the Secretariat of Social Integration of Central America (SISCA), development partners, and civil society to promote inclusive and transformative social policies that benefit the people of Belize and the wider Central American and Dominican Republic region. (release)

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 10/2026

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue
will be $64,391,800.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of $200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 22 July 2026 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 21 October 2026.

Each tender must be for $200 or a multiple of $200. Bid yields must be submitted to five decimal places.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 17 July 2026.

The auction in the CSD will be opened from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Wednesday 22 July 2026.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement
System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

7 July 2026

FOR SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE

The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.

All offers to purchase the said properties must be made in writing to the said Corporation at its Headquarters Office or District Offices.

SCHEDULE

Parcel No. 9046, Block No. 20, Belmopan Registration Section containing 692.119 Square Meter (s) situate in J&W Subdivision, City of Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of Elizabeth Kayla Melendrez and Travis Franklin Ciego (Jointly).

Parcel No. 3340, Block No. 16, Ladyville/Lord's Bank Registration Section containing 464.591 S.M. situate in the Lord's Bank Village, Belize District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of Lindbergh Moses Arnold.

Parcel No. 919, Block No. 16 Vista Del Mar Registration Section containing 416.21 Square Meter (s) situate in Vista Del Mar, Ladyville Village, Belize District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of Miguel Efrain Marin surety for Vista Rentals Limited.

All THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot. No. 330 containing 724.510 Square Meters of land situate in the Windmill Area, Hattieville Village, Belize District bounded and described as shown by Plan No. 2164 attached to Ministers Fiat Grant No. 108 of 2013 held under a Deed of Conveyance dated the 31st day of October, 2024 being the freehold interest of Tricia Nicole Valentine and Edmond Elsworth Carter surety for Tricia Nicole Valentine.

Parcel No. 377, Block No. 45, St. Martin De Porres West Registration Section containing 335.41 Square Meters, situate corner Lacroix Boulevard and Gladden Street, Belize City, Belize District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of Clifford Cooke.

DATED THIS 13TH DAY OF JULY 2026

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

RANK AND FILE UDPS ABANDON SHAMELESS TRACY PROTEST

By Hilly Bennett

Imagine, instead of riling up the masses to rally and protest against the government, it was more a feeble attempt by the Leader of the Opposition (LOO), Tracy Taeger-Panton, to resurrect the UDP from the political morass of their 13-year rule of corruption and incompetence. The motive of Tracy's UDP premature, disorganised, wishy-washy protest was to make the UDP leadership relevant by conjuring irrelevance. "STAND UP FOR BELIZE" was the chant.

Tracy spearheaded a protest on Friday morning, July 10th, which was supposed to mimic the massive showing going into the 2008 General Elections. Unfortunately, some notable rank-and-file UDPs decisively abandoned the LOO. Patrick Faber, Sheena Pitts, Hugo Patt, and Benque Viejo area representative Mike Guerra were obviously absent, sending the message that they were not in support of the current leadership. Additionally, there was no representation from the NTUCB, the GWU, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the BNTU, the biggest and most vociferous of all the unions.

Interestingly, the whisper floating around is that Lord Cashcraft castigated Tracy and her guttersnipes, sycophants, and hangers-on for a wutless, pilinky showing. Apparently, it was the Lord's money which financed the sordid circus parade.

The ill-advised "strike when the iron is hot" by Sheena was not followed by what is being considered a premature move by Tracy. Clearly, the virality on social media and news media houses of the procurement processes at the BDF and the Smartstream invoices became the impetus for the rally and protest last Friday. However, one of the major reasons for the nonparticipation of the unions in the protest is that the Prime Minister, John Briceño, had announced that measures are being undertaken to address the situation. A procurement unit will be set up, with the necessary firewalls installed to avoid the weakness in the system. PM Briceño has also called for an audit of the Smartstream processes going back to 2015. Briceño vowed that following the completion of the audit, decisive action would be taken, and 'Let the chips fall where they may'.

Procurement issues have been plaguing the government services for a long time, and in 2010, Dean Barrow amended the Finance and Audit Reform Act, primarily to ensure better accountability and transparency regarding the procurement of government services. At the time of the amendment, Barrow considered the penalties as 'a slap on the wrist'. Incidentally, Barrow violated his own amendment and was convicted by the Court of Chief Justice Benjamin of spending 1.2 billion dollars without parliamentary approval. Then again, the UDP Government amended its public procurement procedures through the Financial Orders (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (Statutory Instrument No. 16 of 2018). Understandably, the outcry coming from Tracy and the UDPs about the Auditor General's decision to make an audit query from 2015 to the present is because the UDP's Pandora's box will be flung wide open on their egregious and corrupt actions committed when John Saldivar was at the helm of the BDF. Instead of the chant 'enough is enough', it was all about 'roll it roll it'.

While Dean Barrow became mendicant in the revelation of wrongdoing by his ministers, begging "For God's sake stop it", John Briceño has taken decisive action on several of his ministers at the appearance of wrongdoing. As we await the outcome of the findings, the Prime Minister must be commended and applauded for his decision-making in the face of the current situation. It underscores his steadfast leadership in steering the ship of government and ensuring that the good governance model of government is adhered to and complied with.

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given that **Anthony Dennison** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"A-Deez Cool Spot"** located at # 94 Boots Crescent Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

MINISTRY OF E-GOVERNANCE
The Ministry of E-Governance has a New Official Website
Please visit us at
www. egov.gov.bz
NATIONAL DIGITAL AGENDA 2022 - 2025
Our previous site:
www.digitalagenda.gov.bz
is no longer in use

Belize Tax Service (BTS)
Ministry of Finance
Government of Belize

Request for Proposals for Consultancy for the Development of an Institutional Brand Strategy and Identity for the Belize Revenue Authority (Individual or Firm Selection)

Purpose

The purpose of this consultancy is to develop a comprehensive and cohesive institutional brand identity for the Belize Revenue Authority (BRA), that reflects its transformation into a modern, semi-autonomous revenue authority.

Specific Objectives of this Consultancy

I. Develop a Brand Strategy Framework aligned with the BRA's mandate and core values.
II. Design a visual identity system, including supporting elements.
III. Develop a Brand Manual and Brand Toolkit.
IV. Establish a Brand Messaging Framework for internal and external stakeholders.
V. Develop a Brand Implementation and Rollout Strategy.
VI. Ensure alignment of the brand with organizational culture and transformation objectives.

The detailed Terms of Reference for the consultancy can be requested from eddie.herrera@bts.gov.bz. Proposals must be submitted to the Director General of the Belize Tax Service by July 31, 2026 by 5:00 pm at michelle.longsworth@bts.gov.bz.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

HYDROLOGICAL OFFICER – NATIONAL HYDROLOGY OFFICE

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project
Process ID: BZ-CEU-460811-CS-INDV
Duration: Twenty-Four (24) Months
Duty Station: National Hydrology Office, Belmopan, Belize (In Office)
Deadline: **July 31, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the execution of the **"**Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project", being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Hydrological Officer" for the National Hydrology Office within the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change.**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
Sir Edney Cain Building, 2nd Floor, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106

procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – "Hydrology Officer" – Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project [Applicant's Name]

Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs Leads

Child Protection & Justice Steering Committee

July 16, 2026 - Belize has taken another step toward strengthening the protection and welfare of its children with the official launch of the Child Protection and (CPJSC), a national body designed to improve coordination among agencies responsible for child protection and child justice. The launch ceremony was held at the Lamanai Hall of the Fort George Hotel and Spa and brought together government officials, members of the judiciary, development partners, and representatives from key public institutions.

The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs notes the new committee reflects the Government's continued commitment to ensuring every child is protected, supported, and given access to justice through a coordinated and child-centred approach. The initiative follows recommendations made during the 2024 National Child Protection System Evaluation, which was carried out by the Department of Human Services in partnership with UNICEF Belize. The assessment identified the need for stronger collaboration, greater accountability, and better strategic alignment among agencies working with children.

UNICEF Belize Representative Sajid Ali described the committee as more than another government body. *"Belize has chosen not to simply create another committee but to create a platform through which agencies can work together more effectively in the best interest of children."*

Justice Natalie Dixon, Chair of the Child Protection and Justice Steering Committee, said the launch marked a commitment to institutionalising child-friendly justice throughout Belize. *"We're not just launching a committee here today; we're solidifying our promise to institutionalize child-friendly justice across Belize. Together we will ensure that every child who interacts with the legal system is treated with the utmost dignity and compassion,"* she stated.

Justice Dixon noted that Belize has long had ambitious policies supporting children's rights but lacked a unified structure capable of measuring whether those efforts were making a meaningful difference.

The newly established CPJSC will oversee national prevention and response efforts across both child protection and child justice sectors while guiding implementation of the National Strategy to End Violence Against Children and the Child Justice Reform Action Plan. Its work will also align with Belize's Children's Agenda 2017-2030 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, while promoting prevention, protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration for children who come into contact with the law.

The committee will be chaired by the Judiciary through the Chief Justice of the Senior Courts, while the Director of the Department of Human Services will serve as Vice-Chair. Administrative support will be provided by the National Committee for Families and Children, which will act as Secretariat by coordinating meetings, maintaining records, and providing technical and logistical assistance.

Membership includes representatives from the Ministries of Human Development, Education, Health and Wellness, and Home Affairs, along with the Belize Police Department, Department of Labour, Immigration Department, Office of the Special Envoy, UNICEF Belize, and members of the Judiciary, including the Magistrate's Court, Family Court, Legal Aid, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The committee has been assigned seven core responsibilities, including legislative and policy advocacy, improving service quality in line with international child rights standards, strengthening training for professionals working with children, promoting multi-sector collaboration, supporting social and behaviour change initiatives, and establishing effective reporting and monitoring systems.

Its implementation plan is divided into five strategic phases. The first phase in 2026 focuses on building the legal and institutional foundation. Core services are expected to be rolled out in 2027, followed by expansion and integration in 2028. Quality assurance measures are scheduled for 2029, while 2030 and 2031 will concentrate on sustainability and the next stage of reform.

Attorney General Anthony Sylvestre said, *"A great majority of children who end up in conflict with the law are wounded children, which is why today's event and the breathing work of this CPJSC is to be celebrated,"* he said, adding that his ministry stands ready to collaborate with the committee and its partners.

Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs Thea Garcia-Ramirez emphasized that success would not be measured by meetings or reports but by meaningful improvements in children's lives. She said safer homes, stronger support systems, quicker responses for vulnerable children, and greater opportunities for every child to thrive would define the committee's achievements. Stressing that no single institution can accomplish the task alone, the minister reaffirmed her ministry's commitment to working with partners to build a stronger child protection and justice system for Belize. - EF

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Geographic Information Systems Technician
You'll learn how modern mapping tools capture and analyse our planet through lidar (topographic & bathymetric), satellite imagery, drones, and GPS technology.
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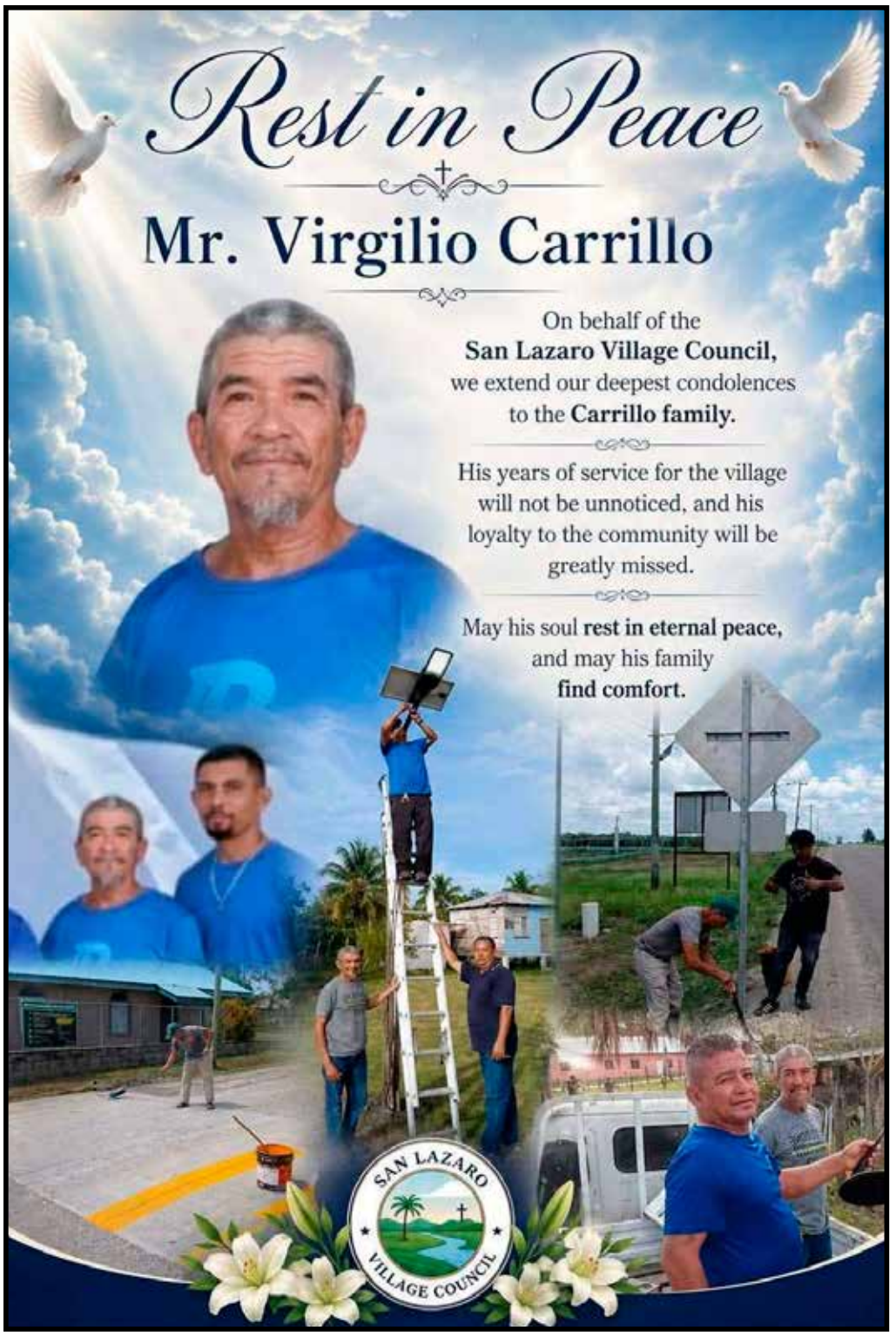
Learn more
TUITION FREE FOR INITIAL COHORT!
Ministry of Education
Government of BELIZE
MoECST


Rest in Peace
Mr. Virgilio Carrillo
On behalf of the San Lazaro Village Council, we extend our deepest condolences to the Carrillo family.
His years of service for the village will not be unnoticed, and his loyalty to the community will be greatly missed.
May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his family find comfort.
SAN LAZARO VILLAGE COUNCIL

smart!
Bringing People Together

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026
PREDICTIONS GAME

PREDICT THE ACTION. SCORE THE POINTS.
CLIMB THE LEADERBOARD

GET READY FOR
PREDICT & WIN

Don't just watch the World Cup...
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$2,500
& other weekly prizes

Download the Smart app
to get in the game!

GET IT ON Google Play

Available on the App Store

FIFA